

City of Concord Recreation and Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2006 Held at West Street Ward House

Attendance:

Committee Members: Janet Schofield, Mary Miller, Laura Fleider, Councilor Keith Nyhan, Bruce Alleyne and Liz Odell, Councilor James Bouley, Candace White Bouchard

Staff Members: Carolyn Tracy, David Gill and Chris Jacques

Water Damage to Recreation Facilities and Parks.

Carolyn passed around pictures of Garrison Pool, Reed and White Park. Garrison pool was damaged by the flooding this week. Section of the pool deck was damaged. Carolyn also mentioned that West Street Ward House was closed for several days due to sewer back up related to the flood. Chris Jacques mentioned most parks received little or no damage. Reed, White and Martin are still very wet with some sections are still under water.

Discussion took place regarding the damage at Garrison Pool and will we be able to open this year. Carolyn mentioned it is still too early to tell and that engineering will have to inspect the pool area.

Budget Reduction Impacts

Recreation Departments Budget:

Carolyn distributed information in the managers FY 07 proposed budget and highlight reductions for the recreation department.

- Loss of full time Recreation Assistant
- Closing all pools one week early. Closing date would be August 10 instead of August 17.
- No pay raises for seasonal employees
- Total saving with budget reductions \$53,000

Councilor Bouley mentioned some good news. The City just received \$146,000 grant obtained by Charlie Bass to help with the renovations of White Park. The White Park renovations are fully funded in the manager's proposed FY 07 budget.

Discussion took place regarding what impact there would be if the full time recreation assistant position was eliminated. Carolyn stated it would have serve implications with critical department responsibilities. This position currently is responsible for daily deposits, booking indoor recreation facilities, assisting with entering registrations, web page creation and updating, news releases, CCTV power points. It is unlikely the one remaining recreation assistant will be able to take on the extra work load.

Councilor Bouley asked what the savings would be if Garrison Pool was closed for the season. Carolyn estimated the savings would be \$9000, just for recreation department expenses. Discussion took place regarding closing Garrison. Members also discussed the possibility of charging for pools. Committee members at this time do not support charging residents for using pools.

Committee members discussed these proposed cuts and do did not agree with cutting the full time recreation assistant position and closing the pools a week early as proposed by the manager. They did support increasing the fees for youth soccer and basketball; several members are concerned about this increasing the number of youth scholarship request.

Councilor Bouley made a suggestion that RPAC form a subcommittee to look at generating new sources of revenue.

- Look at current programming – are they cost effective?
- Can the department run some of the youth or adult leagues within the city?

Committee members agreed with the Jim's recommendation. The following members agreed to serve on new sub committee: Councilor Bouley, Candy, Andrea, Mary and Lauren.

Carolyn also mentioned the Public Property Division cut \$1500 on heating of the Skate House – thus closing the building. However, the Recreation Department still has revenue budgeted for FY 07 and salary expense for staffing and no one has mentioned this to Recreation.

Grounds Division Budget:

Chris Jacques highlighted the budget reductions for his Division.

Recommended reductions are:

- Temp Staff \$16,500
- Aeration of Fields \$14,500
- Overtime: \$7500
- Dock in/out at Arena \$5000
- Travel Training \$250
- Total recommended reduction in FY 07 Budget \$44,500

Overall impact will be:

- No ice skating at Merrill park
- Limited ice maintenance and snow removal on White Park Pond
- Less maintenance at parks, including set up of fields on nights and weekends.

Committee member's discussed these proposed cuts and do not support the staff and over time cuts proposed by the manager. Several members felt if the City does not do annual aeration of the fields it could cause and increase in injury rates and thus increased liability for the City. Chris mentioned there is a possibility the City could buy one and they pay back would be around five years.

National Recreation and Park Accreditation.

Carolyn highlighted the Recreation Department's goal to become accredited by NRPA. There is only one New England Department currently accredited and only fifty nationwide. The process will take over a year.

Meeting adjured at 6:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by;

David Gill
Recreation Supervisor